

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14

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R 241304Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA UNN

CINCPAC

DIA

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 16568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: MISSION PLANNING TO HELP THE SANY GOVERN-
MENT MEET ITS PROBLEMS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: BANGKOK 16271

1. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES PRELIMINARY MISSION THINKING ON MEANS BY WHICH THE US CAN BEST HELP THE RTG MEET ITS PROBLEMS (REFTEL) OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. ADDITIONAL MESSAGES WILL COVER VARIOUS SECTORS IN GREATER DETAIL AND SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL TREAT ECONOMIC AID ASPECTS. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF DELUGING THE ADMINISTRATION WITH UNSOLICITED ADVICE, BUT WILL BE READY TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR OUR IDEAS ALONG LINES SKETCHED OUT BELOW.

2. THE RTG MUST:

(A) DEMONSTRATE A CAPACITY TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TO GOVERN WHILE DRAFTING A CONSTITUTION AND PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS;

(B) KEEP THE LID ON EXTREMISTS AND UNRECONCILED MINORITY ELEMENTS AMONG BOTH THE STUDENTS AND THE MILITARY;

(C) SATISFY TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE STUDENT DESIRES FOR A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN POLICY FORMULATION AND ADMINISTRATION;

(D) MOVE TO REDUCE CORRUPTION AND PROJECT AN IMAGE OF HONEST, EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION;

(E) RESTORE MORALE TO THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES;

(F) SATISFY POPULAR EXPECTATION THAT LIFE WILL BE BETTER UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT, GIVEN LIMITED POSSIBILITIES OF A GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGED AS INTERIM;

(G) REASSURE ASIAN NEIGHBORS AND THE UNITED STATES THAT IT WILL NOT MAKE RADICAL FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES;

(H) PREVENT THE CPT FROM EXPLOITING RTG WEAKNESSES WHICH MAY APPEAR, AND HANDLE THAILAND'S COUNTERINSURGENCY PROGRAMS MORE EFFECTIVELY;

3. GENERAL

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THE SANYA GOVERNMENT WILL NEED ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND MORAL SUPPORT IT CAN GET FROM ITS FRIENDS. WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO EXPRESS TO THE THAI LEADERSHIP OUR CONFIDENCE THAT THE CHANGES OF THE PAST FEW DAYS -- ALTHOUGH ACCOMPANIED BY PERSONAL TRAGEDY -- OPEN THE WAY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE AND CAPABLE OF ACCELERATING PROGRESS IN IMPORTANT SECTORS. THIS EFFORT WILL BE EXTENDED IN THE COMING DAYS TO THE END THAT THE THAI WILL BE AWARE THAT WE ARE READY TO HELP WITH

ADVICE AS REQUESTED AND WITH MATERIAL AID WITHIN OUR LIMITS. WE RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, AS GOVERNMENT ALSO MUST, LIMITS ON ACHIEVEMENT IMPOSED BY ITS TEMPORARY STATUS AND OBLIGATION TO FOCUS ON RESTORATION OF ORDER, CONSTITUTION, AND ELECTIONS IN 6 TO 9 MONTHS.

4. ECONOMIC

(A) SPECIFICALLY, WE SHALL WANT TO RE EXAMIN WHAT WE CAN DO TO AID THE THAI TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND TO REDUCE INFLATIONARY PRESSURE. THE US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS BEING RE-ORIENTED AWAY FROM PUBLIC SECURITY AND MORE TOWARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WITH EMPHASIS ON ASSISTING THE LOWER INCOME GROUPS (THIS IS THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE TELEGRAM). INCREASING DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION REPRESENTS ANOTHER AREA WHERE ACTION IS REQUIRED TO REDUCE THE BUDGET DEFICIT AS WELL TO BRING GREATER EQUITY IN SHARING THE COST OF GOVERNMENT. MORE RESOURCES FOR FAMILY PLANNING IS AN ADDITIONAL PRIORITY REQUIREMENT.

(B) IT MAY BE THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FOCUS ON LONGER-TERM ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SUCH AS STIMULATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT, EXPANSION OF AGRO-INDUSTRY, TAX AND INTEREST RATE REFORM, IMPROVEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE) BUT WE SHALL SEEK TO MAKE CLEAR OUR DESIRE TO BE OF HELP WITHIN OUR LIMITATIONS, AND ENCOURAGE THE RTG TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WHICH ENCOURAGE RURAL GROWTH. THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON HOW THE RTG COULD BE ALERTED TO EXPLOIT ITS OPPORTUNITIES AND ITS RESOURCES NOW AT HAND AS WELL AS THOSE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER DONORS INCLUDING THE US.

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5. POLITICAL

(A) PROPERLY UTILIZED, STUDENT ENTHUSIASM AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH CAN BECOME A MAJOR FORCE FOR PROGRESS AND STABILITY. FORTUNATELY, LTG SAIYUD KERDPHOL, NOW THE CHIEF RTG CONTACT WITH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, APPEARS TO RESPECT STUDENT MOTIVATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND IS DETERMINED TO BRING THEIR ADVICE TO BEAR ON PUBLIC LIFE SO AS TO BENEFIT THE NATION AND SATISFY THEIR REASONABLE DEMANDS (BANGKOK 16426). THE MISSION ROLE WILL BE TO GIVE DISCREET MORAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO RTG EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION WHEN APPROPRIATE.

(B) THE IMPORTANT PROCESS OF DRAWING UP A NEW CONSTITUTION THE THE COUNTRY AND DEVELOPING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM WILL TAKE UP A GREAT DEAL OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S TIME AND ENERGIES.

WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THE PROGRESS OF CONSTITUTION'S DEVELOPMENT AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN GREATER DETAIL AND AT REGULAR INTERVALS AS THESE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES PROGRESS. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OCTOBER 19 THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEEK OUT SOMEONE TO ADVISE ON ELECTIONS, THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, CONDUCT OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, ETC. SHOULD THE RTG SO REQUEST. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED RICHARD SCAMMON.

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6. MILITARY

(A) ON THE MILITARY SIDE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAN TO BE PREPARED FOR US STRENGTH REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND, AS AGREED UPON
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BETWEEN THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE RTG AND CONSISTENT WITH BOTH OUR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. CONCURRENTLY, WE PROPOSE TO SUPPORT THE NEW SANYA GOVERNMENT AT THE SAME LEVELS OF ADVICE AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE AS WE SUPPORTED THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE DESIRED.

(B) SPECIFICALLY, WE PLAN TO CONTINUE STREAMLINING THE JUSMAG ADVISORY ORGANIZATION TO COINCIDE WITH RTG DESIRES AND CURRENT TRENDS IN THE US ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE INTEND TO IMPRESS ON THE NEW RTG LEADERSHIP OUR HOPE THAT MOMENTUM WILL BE GAINED IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFORT AND THAT THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE DEEMED APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE, WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON SCHEDULE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL STAND READY TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE WITHIN CURRENT US POLICY GUIDELINES AND WITHIN OUR RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES AS THE RTG REQUESTS, AND WE WILL BE ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY NEW SITUATION TO PRESS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS IN CI FIELD (THIS WILL APPLY TO CIVIL AND POLICE AS WELL AS MILITARY FIELD.)

7. SECURITY

(A) WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE WITH THE RTG IN A JOINT EFFORT TO DETECT ANY CPT EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE NEW SITUATION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CPT WILL NOW PUT RENEWED EMPHASIS ON UNITED FRONT TYPE ORGANIZATIONAL WORK AMONG STUDENTS AND WORKERS.

(B) WE WILL ENCOURAGE THE SPECIAL BRANCH (SB) OF THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS AGAINST THE CPT AND AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, AND RECOMMEND THAT WE SUPPORT THOSE DIVISIONS OF THE SB THAT HAVE NOW, OR ARE ASSIGNED IN THE FUTURE, THESE TASKS.

8. PSYCHOLOGICAL

(A) AT THIS JUNCTURE, A NEW COHERENT NATIONWIDE INFORMATION POLICY IS ESPECIALLY REQUIRED SO THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION CAN UNDERSTAND THE RECENT EVENTS AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO RTG EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD AS REQUESTED.

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(B) LONGER RANGE - THERE IS AN INDICATED NEED WITHIN THE RTG FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW, COHERENT NATIONWIDE INFORMATION DISSEMINATING MECHANISM. WE ARE RELUCTANT AT THIS POINT IN TIME TO RECOMMEND THE FORMATION OF AN INFORMATION MINISTRY IN VIEW OF THE VIOLENT STUDENT REACTION TO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT. HOWEVER, IT HAS LONG BEEN APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOR MANY YEARS REQUIRED NOT ONLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIABLE INFORMATION PROCEDURES BUT AN INFORMATION DISSEMINATING ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVELY REACHING ALL ELEMENTS OF THE POPULACE. WE WILL USE APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE OVERALL INFORMATION DISSEMINATING CAPACITY OF THE RTG BE BROUGHT UNDER A SINGLE UNIFIED AUTHORITY.
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